

MEMORANDUM

November 27, 1944

MR. A. C. CAMPBELL
VICEPRESIDENT, GROUP INSURANCE

Attached is a report on a trip made to Montreal, Asbestos, Thetford Mines, and Quebec, October 14-21. The primary purpose of this trip was to determine the reasons for the high tuberculosis mortality rate in our Group business at Thetford Mines, and to offer advice on the establishment of an industrial health clinic in Thetford Mines. The trip coincided with the trip Mr. Fehnel had been asked to make in order to secure samples of asbestos dust in the Johns-Kanville mine in Asbestos, Que. While in Canada, through Mr. Perry and Mr. W. J. Barrett, arrangements were made for Mr. Fehnel and me to visit certain groups in Montreal. Developments and observations based on this trip are on the attached statement. Further developments since the trip are:

(1) The appointment of Dr. Jacques Cartier, who is an expert on tuberculosis, as Medical Director of the industrial health clinic at Thetford Mines. We have informed Dr. Cartier, at his request, of places in this country that he might properly visit to secure information on industrial health programs. Dr. Burnette has been asked to do the same for him in Canada.

(2) Dr. Cartier and Mr. Sabourin, the Asbestos Producers Association's legal representative in Canada, attended the Air Hygiene Foundation's meeting in Pittsburgh, November 15th and 16th, where they conferred with Dr. Lanza and Dr. Gardiner.

(3) Statistical data has been obtained from the Provincial Health Department of Quebec and, under Mr. Vane's direction, mortality rates for tuberculosis are being prepared.

(4) Dr. Burnette has sent us the information on health data for communities in the Province to compare with our mortality data for these same places.

(5) Steps are now being taken to conduct tuberculosis surveys in Thetford Mines, Asbestos, to compare with other communities in the Province.

With the establishment of an industrial health clinic we should expect eventually that the tuberculosis rate would be reduced. Our preliminary conclusion is that the asbestos mining and processing does not contribute to the tuberculosis rate, but reflects a condition which prevails in a number of communities in the Province where personal hygiene and living habits are poor and health supervision is inadequate.

*Because of a delay in getting his equipment back from Canada, Mr. Fehnel's report will be delayed.

George M. Wheatley, M.D.
Assistant Medical Director

CC to Mr. Morecroft

59)